



# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*"Every day is a fresh start for you. That every sunrise is a new chapter in your life waiting to be written."* —Juansen Dizon

August/September/October 2024



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

It is with a big smile and some unbridled excitement that I welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year! If this summer is any indicator, we are going to have an EXCELLENT year. I am excited to share some updates, highlights, and important information as we embark on another leg of this wonderful journey together.

### 1. Reflecting on the Past Year

This past academic year was filled with achievements worth celebrating. Here are a few of my favorites:

- ★ Our graduating class left MCS with a collective total of 395 college credits!
- ★ We reinstated Morning Program, welcoming hundreds of families into the building.
- ★ On average, 80% of our secondary students were on one of our merit based achievement lists (Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, or Principal's List).
- ★ Our Student Council took a leadership role in winning the Student Voices Student Choices competition and used their award to start the Second Saturday Food Pantry.

Our students, staff, and families adapted to new learning environments and continued to strive for excellence. I am incredibly proud of how we came together to support one another and our students' success.

### 2. Preparing for September

Our staff is already hard at work preparing for the 2024-2025 school year. We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and enriching environment for all students. Here are a few key dates to keep in mind:

- ★ **Back-to-School Bash:** Wednesday, September 4, 1-2:30 p.m.
- ★ **First Day of School:** Thursday, September 5
- ★ **Homecoming:** Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28

We will continue to communicate any updates and important information through our website and email. Please make sure to visit the PARENT page on our website

(morriscsd.org) to complete Family ID paperwork prior to the first day of school.

### 3. Facilities and Improvements

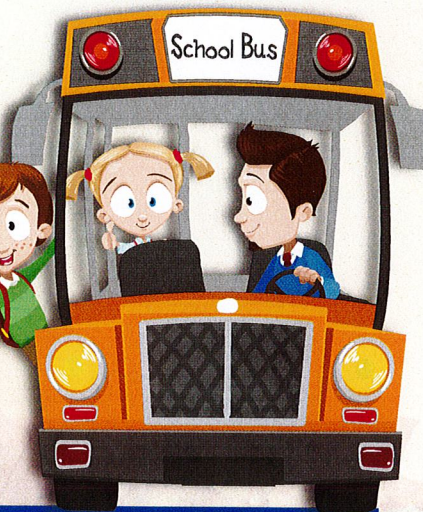
Over the summer, several of our school facilities underwent renovations and improvements to enhance the learning environment. This major capital project included updates to classrooms, roofs, heating systems, and the construction of a new transportation facility. While it has been a bit of a loud and dusty process, we are so thankful for the opportunity to invest in ensuring our buildings and grounds remain a safe and secure place where learning can take place for decades to come.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We have something really special at Morris Central School thanks to each of your contributions. Whether this is your first year or your 31st year, the energy and experiences you bring here are important to improving the lives of our children. Get involved, ask questions, take care of yourself, and continue to focus on serving our students. By promoting excellence and well-being, we are sure to have another wonderful school year. I can't wait to see you in September!

Take care,

*Jamie Maistros*

Jamie Maistros  
Superintendent







### **Morris Central School Board Members**

Mary Dugan, President  
Russell Tilley, Vice President  
Emily Boss  
Teresa DeLaurentiis  
Wendy Moore

### **Morris Central School Administration**

Jamie Maistros, Superintendent  
April Vunk, Principal

**Main Office (607) 263-6100**

**Guidance (607) 263-6116**

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(607) 263-6102

or  
**Julene Waffle**  
([jwaffle@morriscsd.org](mailto:jwaffle@morriscsd.org))

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## **NEW WEBPAGE**

[www.morriscsd.org](http://www.morriscsd.org)

*You may have noticed MCS has  
a new webpage. Please check it out.  
It is full of important and useful  
information.*

## **ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION**

Notice to all building occupants of the availability of the school district asbestos management plan.

The school district's Asbestos Management Plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department in 1995 by LEA Designee Don Turnbull. The Asbestos Management Plans for this school district's buildings are available at the office of the head custodian in accordance with EPA's "ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACE (AHERA): of 1987 (40 CFR part 763) and New York State "RIGHT TO KNOW LAW."

All management plan records are available for review at the designated time; business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information contact John Tol or Jamie Maistros at 263-6100.

## **SNOW DAYS**

While it seems far away, winter will soon be upon us and will bring with it snow and ice. Some of you may wonder who decides to close school. Well, it is not just one person who makes this decision. Mrs. Maistros, Mr. Tol, and the transportation department are up at the crack of dawn talking to each other, the village, town and state workers about the road conditions and the decision to delay or close school.

In the case of school closure, delay, or early dismissal, it is important to make sure your contact information is up to date with the main office. We use this data to put out important phone calls, text messages, and emails when weather conditions interrupt our regularly scheduled events.

In addition to the Automated School Notification System, you may check the school's web page and Facebook page, as well as the radio stations that announce our school closings. They are WSRK, WDOS, WCDO, WSKG, WGY, WZOZ, WKXZ, WCNX, WAAL and WHWK. Also, you may tune your television to Binghamton WBNG Channel 12, Utica WKTV Channel 2, News 10 Now on YNN, WUTR and WFXV Utica channel 33. You can also look at *TheDailyStar.com* for closing information, too.



## **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act gives school districts the responsibility to locate and identify all students with disabilities who reside within the district. If you believe that your child has a disability and may qualify for special education classification, supports, and services, please contact my office at (607) 263-6100. I will be happy to schedule an appointment with you to discuss any concerns that you may have regarding your child and how the school district can assist you in providing a free appropriate public education. The Committee on Preschool Special Education and the Committee on Special Education will work with you to provide appropriate referrals, evaluations, and services for children with disabilities ages 3-21.

—Ms. Lindsey Gifford, Director of Instructional Support Services



## 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Morris Central School does not discriminate in employment or in the education programs and activities which it operates on the basis of sex, race or handicap in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, \*504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### SECTION 1

If any person believes that Morris Central School or any of the district's staff has inadequately applied the principles or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) \*504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or (4) the ADA, that person may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the district's compliance officer.

When a staff member or a student is accused of violating the principles or regulations of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or ADA they will be notified in the presence of their Union Representative or immediate supervisor if a staff member, or their guardian if they are a student.

Morris Central School recognizes that both the complainant and the accused have strong interests in maintaining confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of all parties will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All procedures taken by Morris Central School throughout the investigation will be in accordance with the appropriate New York State and Federal laws.

### SECTION 2

The complaint shall discuss the grievance informally with the compliance officer, who shall investigate the complaint and respond in writing to the complainant.

The complainant may thereafter initiate formal procedures according to the following steps:

#### Step (a):

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the compliance officer within seven (7) days of receipt of the response to the grievance. The compliance officer shall further investigate the matters contained in the grievance and shall reply in writing to the complainant within seven days. The accused may respond in writing if he/she wishes.

#### Step (b):

If the complainant or the accused wishes to appeal the decision of the compliance officer, the complainant or the accused may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent within seven (7) days after receipt of the compliance officer's response. The Superintendent shall meet with the complainant or the accused and any representative and make such other inquiries which the Superintendent deems appropriate.

Thereafter, the Superintendent shall set forth a conclusion and respond in writing to the complainant within fourteen (14) days.

#### Step (c):

If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with the conclusion of the Superintendent, the complainant or the accused may appeal through a signed, written statement to the Board of Education within seven (7) days of receipt of the Superintendent's response in step (b). In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the complainant or the accused and any representative within thirty (30) days of receipt of such an appeal. The Board's written disposition of the appeal shall be sent to the complainant or the accused within ten (10) days of this meeting.

#### Step (d):

If the complainant feels the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled at Step (c), further appeal may be made to the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201.

### SECTION 3

The compliance officers are Caitlin Smith and Lindsey Gifford.

The compliance officer, upon request, will provide a copy of the district's grievance procedure to any employee or student of the district.

A copy of each of the Acts and Regulations upon which this notice is based will be made available upon written request directed to the district's compliance officer.

When used in this policy, days shall mean calendar days. The words person and complainant shall include an employee as well as a student of the district.

Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be made to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201.

## SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

The collector will accept payment for school taxes beginning September 3, 2024, and ending October 31, 2024. Payment of taxes may be mailed to the collector at P.O. Box 313, Morris, New York 13808, during this time.

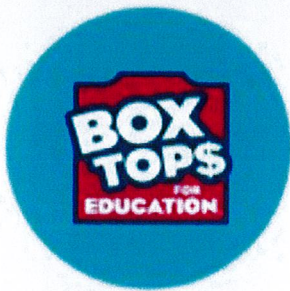
Make checks payable to School Tax Collector. the Tax Collector will not be collecting taxes in person, all taxes must be mailed.

Taxes will be collected at no interest from September 3, 2024, through September 30, 2024, and at 2% interest from October 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. All taxes remaining unpaid after November 1, 2024, will be returned to the Otsego County Treasurer, Cooperstown, New York.



## BOX TOPS

Please keep collecting your Box Tops from your groceries. The Sixth Grade Safety Patrol uses the funds raised to help them go to Washington, DC. There is no need to clip the tops anymore in most cases. There is a free app you can download to your phone now! Once you register, all you have to do is scan your receipt and the items will be credited to MCS. Thanks!



**BUY**  
BOX TOPS  
PRODUCTS



**SCAN**  
YOUR  
RECEIPT



**EARN**  
CASH FOR  
YOUR SCHOOL



**WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!**

*Morris Central School*



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— WHERE DO I GO WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Questions About . . .	1 <sup>st</sup> Contact	2 <sup>nd</sup> Contact	3 <sup>rd</sup> Contact	4 <sup>th</sup> Contact
Academics/Curriculum	Teacher	Mrs. Catella	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Technology/iPads or Chromebooks	Teacher	Mr. Thom	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Scheduling	Teacher	Mrs. Catella	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Special Education	Teacher	Mrs. Gifford	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Classroom Rules/Policies	Teacher	Ms. Turner or Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Athletics	Coach	Mr. Iannelli	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Clubs	Advisor	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros	
<b>Discipline/ Behavior</b>	Teacher	Ms. Turner or Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Peer Issues/Bullying	Adult in Charge	Mrs. Catella & Mr. Mason	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros
Cafeteria	Ms. Foerster	Mrs. Maistros		
Health Office/Nurse	Mrs. Baker	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros	
<b>School Bus (Routes/Behavior)</b>	<b>Bus Driver</b>	Mrs. Bubadias	Mrs. Vunk	Mrs. Maistros

**Main Office** (Teachers, Principal, Dean of Students)...263-6100

**Guidance Office** (Mrs. Catella & Mr. Mason) .... 263-6116

**District Office** (Mrs. Maistros).....263-6102

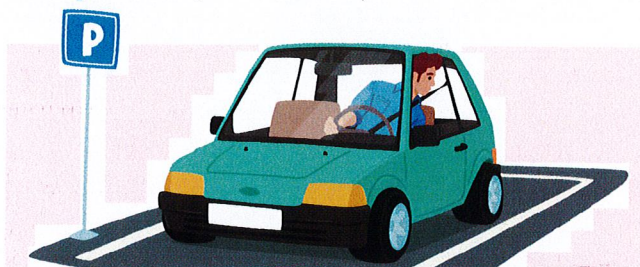
**CSE Office** (Mrs. Gifford, Ms. Smith).....263-6109

**Athletic Director** (Mr. Iannelli).....263-6124

**Cafeteria** (Mrs. Foerster) .....263-6112

**Nurse/Health Office** (Mrs. Baker)..... 263-6111

**Transportation** (Mrs. Bubadias)..... 263-6117



### STUDENT DRIVING

High school students who drive to school may park in areas designated by Student Parking signs. Students must drive in a safe and reasonable manner while on school property. Failure to do so may result in loss of parking privileges in the school parking lot, as well as other possible disciplinary action.

Students who drive to school may not drive during their lunch period or at any other time during the school day. Students who attend BOCES must take the school bus to their BOCES program. For specific reasons, a student may obtain a driving pass from their BOCES instructor, which must also be approved by the Morris Central School Principal.

## TITLE I

### *Annual Parental Notice on Teacher Qualifications*

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, this is to advise you that you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers. If you desire such information, please submit a written request for this information to the attention of:

*Jamie Maistros*

*Superintendent*

*Morris Central School*

*PO Box 40; 65 Main Street*

*Morris, New York 13808*

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the written request should be submitted within thirty (30) days of this notice.

Upon receipt of such request, the District will inform you whether the teachers have met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which they provide instruction; whether any teacher is teaching under emergency or other temporary status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and the baccalaureate degree major of the teachers and any other graduate certification or degree they hold, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

The District will also notify you as to whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.



## ATHLETIC AWARDS

### **Rookie of the Year Award: Maddie Moore and Ty Turner**

This is awarded to a first-year player. The winner of this award has contributed to the team on and off the field/court as well as had a good attitude towards their teammates and coaches.

### **Community Service Award: Jessica Walling**

The purpose of the MCS Student Athlete Service Award is to identify and recognize those students who give up their time and talent to help others without receiving financial compensation and thereby encourage all community members to volunteer as well.

### **Sportsmanship Award: Dominique Cruz and Grace Schiller**

The player that is chosen to receive this honor is someone who conducts themselves on and off the field with fairness and respect towards others. This player is gracious in victory and well-mannered in defeat. This is not an award that is based on skill; it is given to the player who most exemplifies selfless dedication to the team, tireless enthusiasm, and an unwavering respect and love for the game.

### **Coach's Award: Asa Dugan and Maiya King**

This award is given to an athlete who made a positive contribution to the team through attitude and example. One who was pleasant to be around, enthusiastic, never missed practices, and was always willing to learn.

### **Athletic Club Distinguished Athlete Award: Hannah Wist**

The Distinguished Athlete Award is to be given to a student athlete who has participated in all three sports seasons and has shown exemplary effort throughout each season. This athlete has never given up and always brought a positive attitude to the game.

### **Section IV Character Counts Recognition Award: Maddie Moore and Makenzie Hoyt**

The Section IV Athletic Association considered trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship when selecting two athletes from our high school to receive this award.

### **Peter Case Memorial Coach's Award: Maiya King**

This memorial award will be presented to either a female or male athlete who has shown outstanding performance and team effort in her or his years of participation on athletic teams at Morris Central School.

### **Louis Foote Memorial Award: Asa Dugan**

This award is presented to either a female or male athlete who has been an all-around outstanding athlete, not just in her or his performance on the field, but also in her or his contribution to the positive attitude, behavior, and effort that a model athlete is characterized after.

### **The Jake Memorial Award: Jessica Walling**

Gary Jacobsen was a 1969 graduate of Morris Central School. This memorial award is presented to a student athlete who has displayed dedication, sportsmanship and Mustang pride throughout their years of participation on a Morris Central School Athletic Team.

## ALL-STARS

### **Section IV Outdoor Track and Field First Team All-Stars**

Ty Turner  
Amira Ross  
Madison Moore

### **Section IV Outdoor Track and Field Second Team All-Stars**

Hayden Kolvik  
Carter Swayer  
Ryan Murphy  
Chloe Ross  
Maiya King

### **Tri-Valley Outdoor Track and Field All-Star**

Hayden Kolvik

### **Softball First Team All-Star**

Hannah Wist  
Samantha Coyle  
Honorable Mention  
Jessica Walling

### **Baseball First Team All-Star**

Asa Dugan  
Second Team All-Star  
Keegan Fraser

### **Softball Class D Second Team All-State Team**

Hannah Wist



*Congratulations Clark Scholarship Recipients  
Noah Moore, Maiya King, Carter Tuttle, Everett Pondolfino, Ethan Herring, Maddie Coleman, Tatiana McAdams, Samantha Coyle, Jessica Walling, Lorissa Johnston, Yana King, Reed Wolfe.*





# ACADEMIC AND MUSIC AWARDS

## ***Harris Crandall Memorial Prize for Highest Marks***

- Geometry — Carter Swayer
- Algebra — Arrow Ard
- Algebra 2 — Hannah Wist

## ***Principal's Award for Outstanding Achievement— Score 4 on State Assessment 2020***

### ***Seventh Grade***

- Holden Boss — ELA
- Ethan Fallon — ELA, Math
- Kendall Gould — ELA, Math
- Mark Johnson — ELA
- Hannah Moore — ELA
- Jordan Ard — Math
- Brennan Fraser — Math

### ***Eighth Grade***

- Marjorie Ostroff — ELA
- Delilah Triolo — ELA
- Broden Connally — Math
- Chloe Ross — Math

### ***Ninth Grade***

- Savannah Coyle — ELA, Math, Science
- Jacob Johnson — ELA, Science
- Jacob Knapp — ELA, Science
- William Weber — ELA, Science

## ***Student Council Certificates***

Zandra Aliya, Jonah Baldo, Evelyn Burke, Haylee Cole, Brodie Coleman, Maddie Coleman, Samantha Coyle, Savannah Coyle, Alisandra Farmer, Lainey Fraser, Kara Hand, Rachel Hill, Robert Hill, Shiloh Jones, Maiya King, Yana King, William King, Ella Moore, Hannah Moore, Madison Moore, Ryan Murphy, Marjorie Ostroff, Everett Pondolfino, Aislinn Ray, Levi Waffle, Lucas Waffle, Jessica Walling, Grace Wing

## ***Ennis Townsend Creative Award Speech Presentation for 2024***

Jacob Johnson

## ***Raymond A. and Mabel Card Memorial Award***

Brodie Connally

## ***2024 Katharine Smith Principal's Award of Excellence***

Madison Moore

## ***DAR Service Awards***

Rachel Hill, Maddie Coleman, Everett Pondolfino, Aislinn Ray, Jessica Walling

## ***Morris Rotary Club Community Service Awards***

- Seventh — Charles Kolka
- Eighth — Kylee Canfield
- Ninth — Savannah Coyle
- Tenth — Alisandra Farmer
- Eleventh — Mackenzie Hoyt

## ***Board of Education Awards for Highest Marks***

- Global History & Geography — Jonah Baldo
- ELA — Grace Schiller
- U.S. History and Government — Hannah Wist
- Chemistry — Hannah Wist
- Earth Science — Arrow Ard
- Rotary Highest Science Average — Jacob Knapp, Living Environment

## ***Nancy Turnbull Memorial Award***

Peyton Ritchey

## ***Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest***

Kiarra Walker

## ***Alumni Association Scholarship Prizes Freshman***

- 1st — Savannah Coyle
- 2nd — Matthew Schiller

### ***Sophomore***

- 1st — Carter Swayer
- 2nd — Alisandra Farmer

## ***Alumni Association Junior Scholarship***

Hannah Wist

## ***BOE Junior Scholarship Prizes***

- 1st — Hannah Wist
- 2nd — Ethan Nisius

## ***Glimmer Glass Opera Tickets***

Gemma Hall generously donated ten tickets and lunch to see a Glimmer Glass opera this summer. The students attending the opera are:

Brooke McKinney, Brodie Coleman, Sera Lentz, Shiloh Jones, Grace Wing, Jackson Ross, Evelyn Burke, Ali Farmer, Levi Waffle, Mason Linton, and Grace Schiller  
Alternate: Leah Gregory

# WAY TO GO!





## ADVICE TO UNDERCLASSMEN

Dear Underclassmen,

As you navigate your way through high school, applications, scholarships, college decisions, and friendships, I wanted to offer some valuable advice based on my own experiences as a senior.

First and most importantly, *always try your best*. Always give 110%, but make sure you don't stress yourself over the small things. All of those smaller stresses will add up and can hold you back from your true potential.

**Focus on your priorities:** *What do you want to achieve first? Is it reasonable? What are your goals? Dreams?* As cliché as it may be, just remember, if you have a dream, whether that be a career path or a large goal, don't let anyone tell you that you are not capable. You are capable of anything you set your mind to, and with dedication, you can achieve anything.

**Here are some words of advice from some other seniors:**

- ★ "Focus on building a strong foundation in both academics and personal development. Stay curious, explore your interests, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Your high school years are a time for growth and discovery, so make the most of every opportunity that comes your way." —Aislinn Ray ('24)
- ★ "Don't forget to take time for yourself. Academics are important but your mental health is more important." —Maddie Coleman ('24)
- ★ "Every meme you hear doesn't need to be repeated 5,000 times in one day. An overused meme is never a good one." —Haylee Cole ('24)

- ★ "Stay out of drama, do your homework (it's really not that hard), and take care of yourself. Be yourself. Keep doing you and make sure you have yourself in mind when you make decisions. Think "Is it healthy for me? My body? My mental health? My emotional well being?" When you give too much of yourself to other people and things, you will end up with nothing left for yourself which can be draining. So in order to avoid this, make sure you take care of yourself and put yourself first once in a while. That's all I got. Good luck and best wishes everybody!" —Tatiana McAdams ('24)

- ★ "Turn in your labs!" —Everett Pondolfino ('24)

—Yana King ('24)



Seniors musicians were celebrated at the last concert of the year.



## CHATGPT IN THE CLASSROOM

Artificial Intelligence. Did that spook you? No surprise if it does. AI is shaping up to be the big boogeyman of the modern world, especially in schools. Students using Artificial Intelligence to complete their assignments has become something today's teachers need to keep watch for, and more than a few websites and businesses specializing in the detection of AI generated text have cropped up to help with this issue. In a time where people are utilizing new developments in Artificial Intelligence to complete academic assignments, write literature, scripts, and generate images, the line between Artificial Intelligence being a tool or a complete replacement for human creativity and effort is becoming increasingly blurred.

The use of AI in this manner requires zero creativity and nothing new is being made. Artificial Intelligence takes pieces of human-made writing or art from its data, and uses that data to create something through rehashing the human work in its database. High School English teacher Mrs. Waffle believes that "Because AI is using human-made references and not citing them, AI is plagiarizing human works." She also believes that when people don't mark their AI generated work as such, it changes how people in the future will see the past and other such things (for example, she saw a photo of an eagle with two chicks. The chicks had white heads, but in real life eagles do not have white feathers on their heads until they are adults. Some people will believe that image to be true when it is not). However, artificial intelligence doesn't have to be a threat to human creativity. Mrs. Waffle believes that "using AI as a research aid or getting Grammarly to help a student punctuate a sentence better could be useful to students. In the business world, it could be very helpful and time- and money-money saving."

Ultimately, AI like ChatGPT is meant to be a tool, and it's how people use that tool that decides if AI is good or bad moving forward. Using AI as a research tool, or to help in the process of checking grammar offers a much more honest way to use AI, instead of having it do writing assignments for you, which is blatant cheating. More ethical applications of artificial intelligence can help people handle their work, while not stifling human creativity.

—Mason Linton ('25)

## NTHS INDUCTEES

Congratulations to our National Technical Honor Society inductees who participated in a beautiful ceremony at Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES. Our very own **Tatiana Ives** (Cosmetology) and **Sawyer King** (New Visions Engineering) were inducted into this prestigious organization.



*Lorissa Johnston ('24) enjoyed the welding program this year. She is off to study it in more depth in Ohio this coming fall.*



## OUR SCHOOL'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

CROP is an after school program that began at our school in 2000. The program supports students in Pre-K-8 to succeed in their futures and gives them opportunities that they might not have had before they joined. It is a great place for students to go while their families are still at work and it is a free program for students to attend.

At CROP, students participate in many activities. Mrs. Turner and Ms. Smith are the CROP advisors. The peer leaders come together to make plans that the students enjoy. Friday is a fun day where they do activities they don't normally do throughout the week.

From 3 to 3:30 everyday, students eat their snacks and do their homework while peer tutors and peer leaders go around helping students with what they need. After homework and snack time, if the weather is nice, students go outside and essentially get all their energy out so that when they go back inside, they are prepared to do an activity that requires their full attention.

Peer tutors help the students with whatever they need and also help the peer leaders especially with keeping students and focused. Their job is to be a helpful hand to the adults and to make sure the students are doing what they have been instructed.

Mrs. Mackey, Activity Leader said, "I love that it's different from teaching and we're able to do things outside of the classroom. It is nice to be able to do fun and exciting activities with the kids that aren't lessons within school."

Ryan Chesebro, a kindergarten CROP student said, "I love playing with STEM toys in the library." Second Grader, Silvana Burdick, who is also in CROP, said, "Candy Hearts Science Day was my favorite activity because we got to see soda explode!" Beckett Wilcox, also a second grade student said, "Learning about a podcast was my favorite activity because we showed Ms. Catherine pictures we drew and got to talk about it."

—Kiarra Walker ('27)

## ECHO HALLWAY MURAL

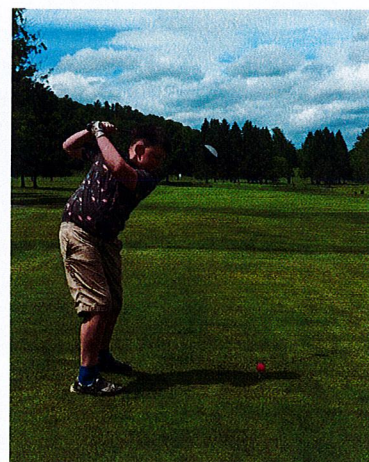
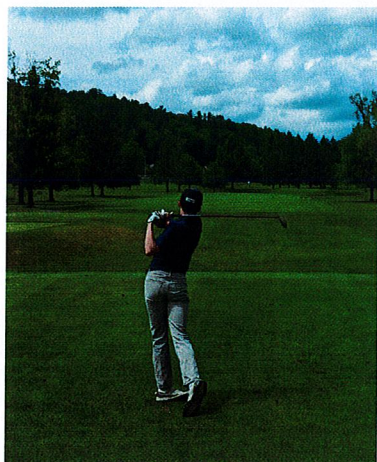
A few years ago, Mrs. Van Ingen, a former art teacher here, began a mural in the "echo hallway" between the second floor wings of the elementary and high school. This year Advanced Art worked on improving its design. Mrs. Collins planned to have all of the sections of the wall flow into each other with each segment corresponding to certain classes and subjects including music, English, math, art, sports and science. Students had input in the design. Work began on the project with **Makenzie Hoyt** taking up the task of sketching out a plan for the new mural. Everyone in the Advanced Art class was extremely productive in each of their respective portions of the mural, with **Leah Gregory** working on the music section, **Aiden Hall** and **Sawyer King** aiding with painting sketched out pieces, **Jackson Ross**, and **Natalie Barley** working on the transitions from subject to subject and **Shilo Jones** working on the ocean section. Others helped as well such as **Grace Schiller**, **Tatiana McAdams**, **Lorissa Johnston**, **Levi Waffle**, and many others. Mrs. Collins' goal was to have it finished by the end of the year. Mrs. Collins said, "I'm so glad that we are getting to create the mural, and that the students are having such a fun time creating it."

—Jackson Ross ('24)





## FREE GOLF



This Spring Golf Club members were able to play free golf at Colonial Ridge Golf Course (Morris' home course) and Leatherstocking Golf Course in Cooperstown.

As a special treat, club members were able to play 18-holes at Leatherstocking Golf Course. In early June, the students arrived early and Mr. Quirk, the pro at the course, gave the students tokens to use down the road at the driving range. Several students got to try the Club's new golf club sets or they were able to try out their own personal new clubs for the first time.

There was fun playful banter before during and after between players and the two chaperones Mrs. Waffle (advisor) and Mr. Roser. Several players had never played Leatherstocking before and really enjoyed it. Some groups played a captain and crew format (Mrs. Waffle, **Brody Connally**, **Landon Atcher**, and **Owen Wagner**). Others played a captain and mate (**Ethan Herring** and **Dom Cruz**).

Dom enjoyed his time on the course--it was his first time playing on a course ever. He said he would play again but he was happy to have Ethan on his team. The last group (Mr. Roser, Levi Waffle, **Lucas Waffle**, and **Jacob Johnson**) played their own ball. Each group had a great time. The middle schooler group really enjoyed hole #18--the long hole over the water. While on that hole they saw many geese and were excited to see a blue heron hunting for fish on the tee box. They were even more excited when a couple of them made it over the water from the tee! Lucas Waffle said, "My favorite hole on the course was #17. I had a good hit over that water and put it close to the pin. I birdied the hole." President of the club, Ethan Herring, helped organize the events. As his last career club event, Leatherstocking was an especially fun event. Ethan said, "It was great to be able to get out and play with different people, and as well as introducing the game to new players".

## READY FOR SUMMER

Summer is coming up fast, with only two more weeks at the time of writing this (6/3/24) students are getting anxious to finally be free for summer vacation. Some students such as **Kaylee Kolka** ('24) are excited to go on vacations with their family. Kaylee is planning to travel to Tennessee for a three-day break. Kaylee said, "I'm going to go on a mudding trail and we are going to stay at a cabin with a lake to go fishing." Some students are planning to have a more relaxing summer. **Mason Linton** ('25) said, "I'm going to take it easy this summer. It's been a long year, and I'm just excited to have a break."

The Class of 2024 is also getting excited to finally graduate high school and move on to the next chapter in their lives. **Ethan Herring** said, "I can't wait to get out of here and pursue further education." Personally, I'm going to miss Morris, but I'm excited to see what the rest of the world has to offer. It is going to be good for me to finally get out."

—Noah Moore ('24)

## HAT DAY

May 31, Senior Tiger Ross ran a Hat Day fundraiser during school. During the day, students could pay one dollar to wear a hat for the entire day. The profits of the project went to the National Honor Society so the group could donate the money to a deserving cause. Hat Day was Tiger's independent service project (ISP) for the year. Every member of NHS needs to complete an ISP during the year. Tiger Ross ('24) said, "It was a very successful project and we raised a considerable amount of money."

Many people participated in Hat Day. **Noah Moore** ('24) was one such participant, and he said, "It was really fun to wear my silly hat all day." **Jacob Morlock** ('24) said, "It was nice to be able to wear my hat for a change as that is what I normally wear when I am not in school."

Overall, the hat day was a lot of fun, and it was very successful as a fundraiser.

—Ethan Herring ('24)



## INVASIVE SPECIES DAY



Throughout the year College Biology and Science 8 students have completed various projects and field trips to learn about invasive species relevant to NY State. This was part of their year-long Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) to learn about how our actions in Morris can affect other parts of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed of which we are a part.

On June 4, these students completed their culminating Environmental Action project by participating in Morris Central School's first Invasive Species Day. They were joined by other students with afternoon science classes and organized the identification of various invasive species found along Calhoun Creek, next to the athletic fields. The students worked hard and located garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed and multiflora rose as the most abundant invasive species along the creek, collected data, and where appropriate, removed the plants. Over the two and a half hours that students worked they collected over 25 bags of invasive plants. The bags were left to "bake" in the sun for two weeks before removal, so as not to spread these invasives to any other location.

Students had a great time putting their learning into practice, getting dirty, and working hard! We hope to continue this project into the future with continued monitoring of our invasive plants along this stretch of the Calhoun Creek.

—The Science Department

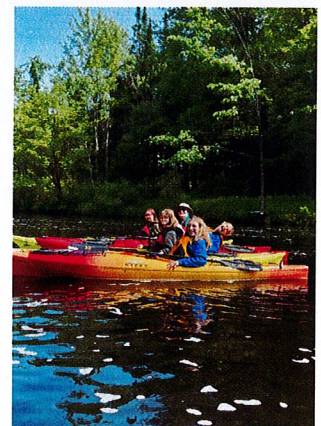
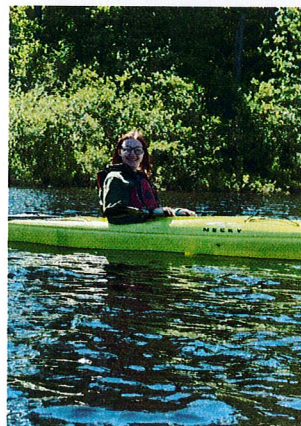


## KAYAKING



On May 30, 2024, seventh and eighth graders went to Forestport Mill Pond and The Black River to learn how to kayak, observe animal species, including bald eagles, turtles, fish, eggs, ducks, frogs, and beavers. They also learned about the history of the Adirondacks and environmental concerns of The Black River.

—Mrs. Maria Deysenroth, PE  
Photos by Alison Dening, Math





## LPP'S TRIP TO SUNY MORRISVILLE

This April, Liberty Partnership's Program went on a field trip to SUNY Morrisville campus to explore certain studies the college has to offer such as Criminal Justice, Gaming, Automotive, Equine, Dairy, Aqua Culture, and Nursing. The LPP program allows students to have a safe space and a support system as well as help with academics. This trip gave the students who are in 9-12, who are in the program, a chance to learn about programs within SUNY Morrisville and learn new things about two subjects they had interest in.

The students were able to choose two programs to explore while they were on the campus. Some walked to places with guides and others rode to the sites. While they were learning, the students were able to do hands-on activities while learning. They had either professors or interns (students) teaching them about the subject they chose. The experience was fully paid for as well as food being provided, which was another good thing about LPP.

LLP has a summer program as well. All trips in the summer and throughout the school year are all paid for by the program and many students enjoy LPP because of the trips, support, and for the ability to get help with their school work.

Some students who went on the trip had positive things to say about it. **Delaney Coveny** ('25) and **Katrina Romano** ('26) said, "We chose Automotive and Criminal Justice. Our favorite topic was Criminal Justice. The hands-on activity was participating in a target shooting simulation." I was one of the students who attended as well, and I chose Criminal Justice and Equine. My favorite was the Criminal Justice program because of the target shooting simulation and because the intern was able to give me advice on the career I intend on pursuing.

—Kiarra Walker ('27)

## MILFORD RAIL RIDE

Mrs. Deysenroth and Mr. Manchester, through the Outdoor Club, accompanied the 5th grade Impact Program students on a rail employers field trip. They worked in groups of four to pedal specialty bikes down the railroad tracks between Milford and Portlandville. **Paige Sherwood, Lucas Galesky, James Williamson, Eden Boss, Jacob Gould, and Mickenzie Goodwin** are working to become peer leaders in the classroom, on the courts, and fields. We are proud of them.

—Mrs. Maria Deysenroth, PE

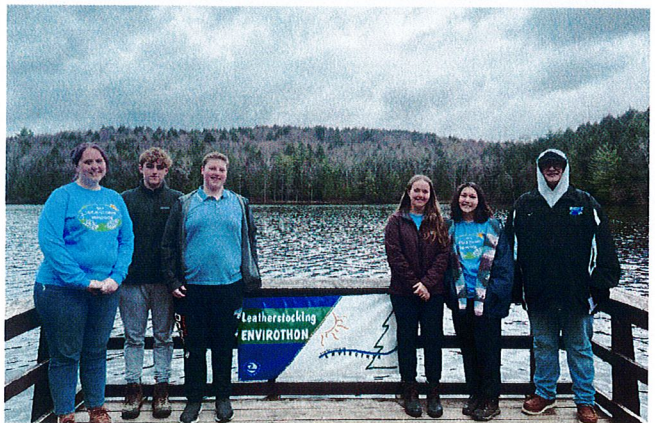


## ENVIROTHON



### Envirothon Team A

Ali Farmer, Maddie Coleman, Shiloh Jones,  
Mrs. Grant (advisor), Tatiana McAdams, Jonah Baldo



### Envirothon Team B

Mrs. Johnson (advisor), Carter Swayer, Robert Hill,  
Jessica Walling, Yana King, Brodie Coleman.



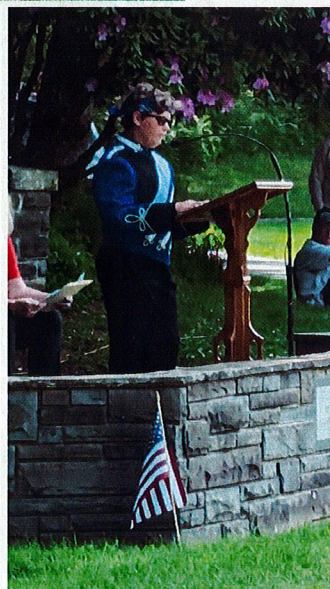


## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

As tradition holds, the whole town turned out in red, white, and blue to honor our fallen veterans this past Memorial Day. The color guard and marching band played patriotic songs while the fire and EMS departments showed off their trucks and others joined the parades on their bicycles and floats.

Eighth Grader, **Ricky Pegg** was honored by being chosen to speak "The Gettysburg Address" as part of the traditional commemoration activities at Hillington Cemetery. In addition, Senior **Asa Dugan**, was honored by being chosen to play "Taps" to honor fallen service men and women. Freshman **Matthew Schiller** was chosen to be the echo for "Taps."

After great speeches at the cemetery, people stopped at the bridge to memorialize those military personnel who served on the water. Some of our youngest Morris students helped drop flowers into The Butternut currents.





## MODIFIED BASEBALL



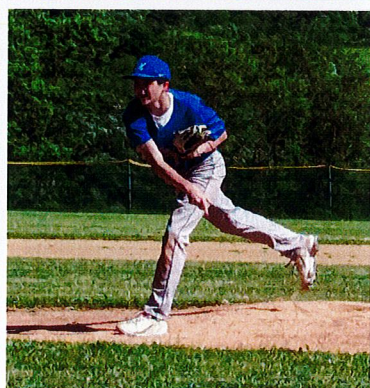
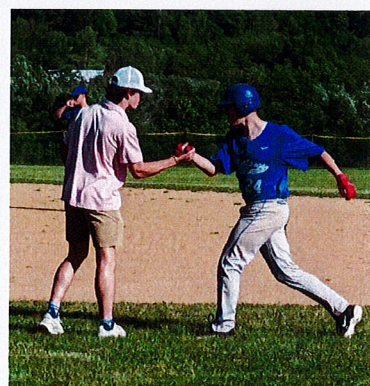
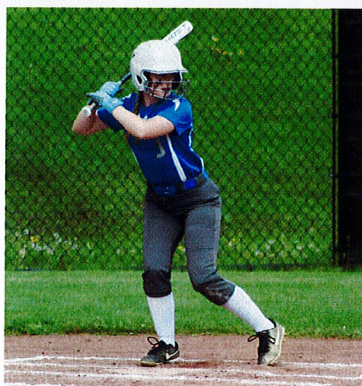
This year the modified baseball team had a good season. It is full of athletes in grades 7, 8, and 9. The modified boys had an unusual season with several games being canceled because of the lack of umpires or transportation. But they didn't let any of those setbacks bother them.

This season was some of the players' first years on modified baseball or for some, it was their first season playing baseball all together.

The team played seven games. Overall, the Modified Mustangs enjoyed their season. One of the most fun things was when the boys played the girls for a scrimmage for fun.

Coach Szokoli said, "It has been an extreme pleasure to coach this team this year. Everyday we improved both on and off the field. I look forward to continuing to see the growth of this group as they get older." Outfielder **Jonathan LaTour** ('27) said, "It's been a good season and we had a lot of fun." **Nathan Gregory** ('27) said, "It doesn't matter what bat, glove, cleats, or hat, it only matters how much we have trained and what the ball player does with what he has been given." **Charles Kolka** ('29) added that "Mr. Szokoli is the GOAT."

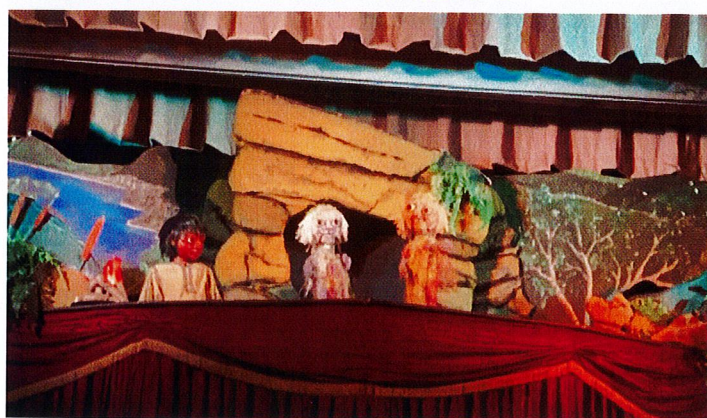
—Kaylee Kolka ('24)



## CATSKILL PUPPET PEOPLE VISIT

On May 22nd the Catskill Puppet Theater visited MCS. The students and adults were all engaged in the creative full sets as they listened to the story of Hiawatha. They learned the importance of making good choices and discovering the pathway to becoming a great person. The students enjoyed the beautifully crafted oversized puppets and Native American flute and drum music. Following the performance the students had the opportunity to ask questions and see how the puppets work. MCS is so glad they visited us and we look forward to hosting them again!

—Mrs. Courtney Mackey, Library Media Specialist



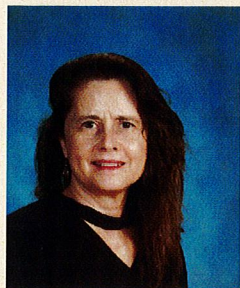


## 2024 MILEAGE CLUB LEADERS



- ★ **Paige Sherwood** (Fifth Grade): 34 Miles
- ★ **Jakob Gould** (Fifth Grade): 32 Miles
- ★ **Maggie Bourgois** (Fifth Grade): 28 Miles
- ★ **Harland Gould** (Second Grade): 26 Miles
- ★ **Abby Connally** (Fifth Grade): 24 Miles
- ★ **Brady Jenison-Mumbulo** (Second Grade): 24 Miles
- ★ **Carson Pope** (Second Grade): 22 Miles
- ★ **Orion Wilsey** (Second Grade): 20 Miles
- ★ **Piper Sherwood** (Third Grade): 20 Miles
- ★ **Emma Allison** (Third Grade): 20 Miles
- ★ **Sierra Baldo** (Third Grade): 20 Miles
- ★ **Ira Pegg** (Fourth Grade): 20 Miles
- ★ **Mary Tabone** (Fourth Grade): 20 Miles
- ★ **Bella Marino** (Fourth Grade): 20 Miles

## HAPPY RETIREMENT



Thank you to Ms. Mary Valez for her service to Morris Central School as a counselor and a Spanish Teacher. MCS wishes her the best in her retirement.

*Congratulations  
and we will miss you!*

## ZOOM VISIT



Former MCS Spanish teacher, Mrs. Joanne Telfer came out of retirement briefly via Zoom to visit Mrs. Waffle's English 102 class. The class was studying poetry, specifically Pablo Neruda and odes, on this day. Neruda is Mrs. Telfer's favorite Spanish-speaking poets.

## PASSING THE TORCH



At the end of May, **Hannah Wist** fulfilled a National Honor Society service requirement by running a softball clinic for softball players on the 5/6 Majors Morris Recreation Softball team. Hannah communicated with rec league coaches, organized the event, found coaching volunteers (her teammates and Coach Waffle), and ran all sorts of drills involving field, throwing, hitting, and baserunning. There was even a marshmallow eating/base running game! Hannah even provided pizza and water afterwards. For three hours the girls were intently involved and excited to learn. The Morris Rec. Facebook page said that "The varsity players and coach provided insightful guidance and support, enabling the girls to enhance their skills and deepen their love for the sport." Other players who helped out were seniors **Samantha Coyle**, **Jessica Walling**, and **Tatiana McAdams**.

## THREEPEAT TRI-VALLEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to the boys varsity baseball team for earning the title of Tri-Valley League Champions for the third year in a row.

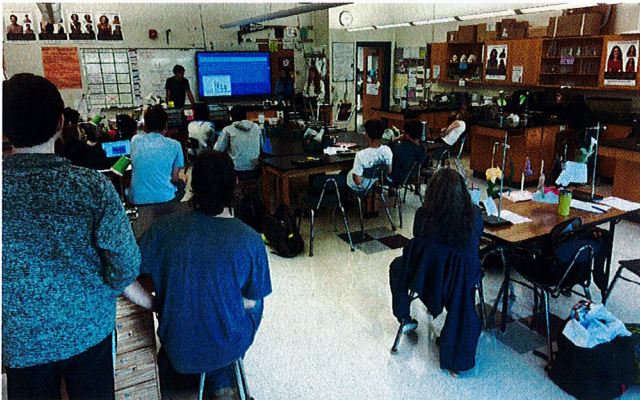


## SPRING CONCERT



The spring concert for middle and high school was in June this past school year. Every concert has its tradition. Winter Holiday has Silent Night,” The Pops Concert has a “combined choir,” and this one celebrated seniors. The seniors were given boutonnieres, and they were recognized for all their efforts and dedication to the music department. We will miss our musical seniors.

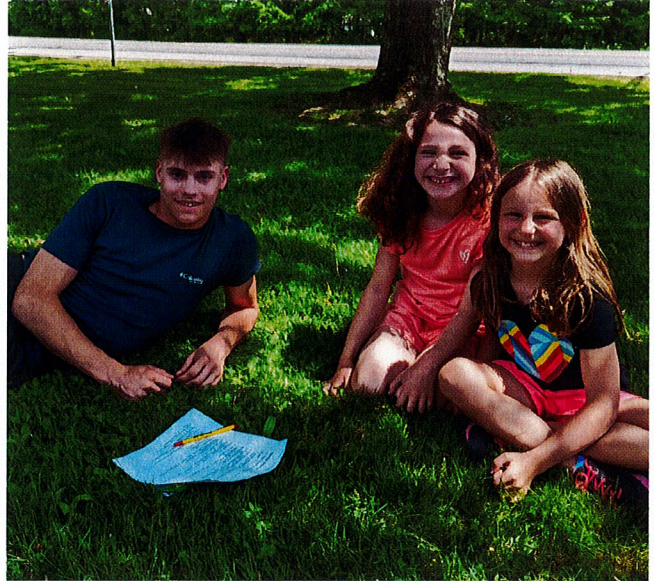
## ELA AND SCIENCE CONNECTION



This year students in ELA 9 and Living Environment learned together about the problems of overfishing, ocean science, and human impacts on our marine ecosystems. They studied the graphic novel *World Without Fish* by Mark Kurlansky together and they researched a related problem. Mrs. Johnson said, “Students did a great job today presenting their research to their peers, practicing presentation skills, and asking follow up questions!”

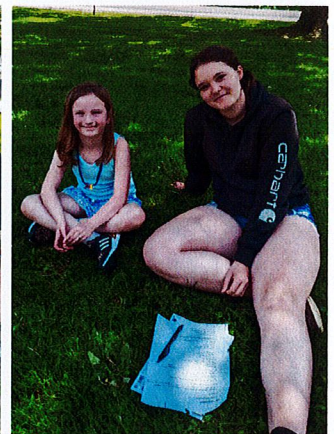
Mrs. Johnson also said, “I wanted to say thank you to Ms. Vunk for stopping in and listening to some of the student presentations! I’m happy with how the joint ELA and science project has gone this year, as it was something Ms. Turner and I have only just started trying, but I think it went well and it’s always nice to have another adult stop by and listen.”

## 2ND GRADE STORIES



This spring English 12 seniors worked with second graders to read with them, be read to, interview them, and then write and illustrate stories about the second graders. The seniors had a ton of fun and the second graders enjoyed getting to know the “big kids.”

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, English

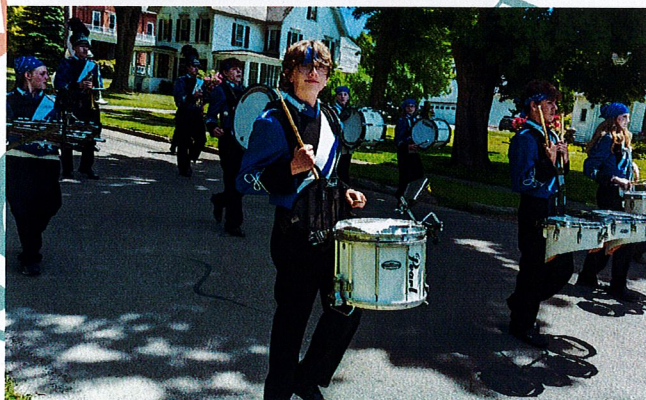




# 75 YEARS OF SHERBURNE PAGEANT OF BANDS

This year students enjoyed performing at the 75th Annual Sherburne Pageant of Bands. At this special celebration, our newly formed colorguard made up of elementary and middle school students won third place under the direction of Coach Connally.

Between practicing and marching in the parade, the band performed in other band competitions, the drum line participated in a competition, and all the students enjoyed down time, eating lunch and snacks provided by families and friends to the program.





## SWEET TREAT



*The varsity softball team celebrated the end of their season with ice cream at Get the Scoop. It was a sweet treat to celebrate a sweet season.*

## Varsity Softball Run Down

The Morris-Edmeston girls softball team came together to fight through a hard season this year. Playing a packed and difficult schedule, they still worked towards their goals on the season. They held many shutouts and game-winning comebacks, all while holding a large roster. New and returning players came together at the beginning of the season to work towards common goals: work to be better, make it to Tri-Valley, win, and overall just have fun. This team accomplished many of those goals. The girls fought for a first-place seed in Tri-Valley and a fourth-place standing in Section IV. The biggest goal of the season was making it to Tri-Valley. Even though the team fell short in the end, everyone worked to get to that game and continued to learn for sectionals. After the T-V Championship disappointment, the girls reset and got ready for sectionals. Even though they came up short in the end, the girls still had some amazing comments on the season. Senior **Tatiana Adams** said, "I had so much fun this year. Softball has always been such a low pressure and relaxing sport for me. Despite all of our games and late nights, I love having chats with the new players and older players as well, all while squeezing in a couple of at bats and catching pop flies in right field." Newcomer to the team, sophomore **Shiloh Jones** said, "I loved trying a new sport and exploring new things." Rookie sophomore **Hailey Canfield** said, "This softball season, we've been a very hard-working team, and we have overcome all challenges thrown our way. We are skilled and good sportsmen, and I'm very glad to be a part of this team. Our team captains have been helpful and kind, working to keep us all motivated and positive. We've come a long way and we will continue to improve as a team."

Junior **Brooke McKinney** said, "I really like playing, I am so glad I came back this year with this group of girls." Captain **Jessica Walling** said, "It was a wonderful senior year softball season. I had a great time being on this year's team and working with so many amazing people. I will definitely miss it next year."

—Hannah Wist ('24)

## CHAMPIONS



Although it's no secret, the 2024 Morris-Edmeston track season has been the most successful in years! Both of the boys and girls sides of the team came in first place at the Tri-Valley Championships. This season each athlete made advancements in their personal bests, and many continued to go above and beyond by beating them for a second time. In just Morris alone, thirteen overall school records were broken and three in Edmeston. The team is sure to break many more to come. There were three Section IV First Team All-Stars, including **Madison Moore** ('25), **Ty Turner** ('26), and **Amira Ross** ('26). There were five more on the Section IV Second Team All-Stars which included **Hayden Kolvick** ('27), **Carter Swayer** ('26), **Ryan Murphy** ('26), **Chloe Ross** ('28), and **Maiya King** ('24). Yet again, **Hayden Kolvik** was a 2024 Tri-Valley Outdoor Track and Field All-Star. Just a freshman, he also broke two school records.

Several of the team's athletes were sent to state qualifiers this year as well, **Madison Moore** was one. She competed in both the girls 3,000 meter run and girls steeplechase, an event she had never competed in before, despite it being her first year running track. She said, "It was such an amazing season for both the team and myself. I really enjoyed the time we spent with each other, everyone pushing others to be their best athletes. I can't wait to see what next year will bring!" The field side of the track team was also very successful. **Everett Pondolfino** ('24) met a new Personal Record (PR) 36-10.5 in the Shot Put event. **Carter Sawyer** ('26), a sophomore, decided to throw the shot as well this year. This was his first year trying this sport. He now holds a Personal Best (PB) of 34-11. The team also competed in several relays throughout the season, which contributed to the number of school records broken. The 2024 track season has brought much determination and inspiration to Morris' new and existing athletes alike, and the team hopes for even better opportunities next year!

—Grace Schiller ('25)



## SOFTBALL MILESTONE FOR WIST



This season, **Hannah Wist** reached a milestone pitching statistic. She pitched her 500th career strike out about mid-season. The precision windmill, Hannah, has been a varsity softball pitcher since the 7th grade. This awesome milestone was met even with a year's interruption of COVID. She is well on her way to reach 600 strikeouts next season. Hannah has taken pitching lessons for years, and her dedication to the sport has paid off with this striking statistic as well as a First Team Tri-Valley League All-Star selection and a New York State Class D Second Team All-State Selection. To celebrate, her coach and team presented Hannah with a ball signed by everyone on the team and a banner (pictured).

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, English and Varsity Softball Coach

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN ADVANCED ART?

After you take art in your middle school grades or Studio Art, you may find yourself yearning for more creative expression, yearning for more projects that require a higher level of expertise and/or a more independent, relaxed schedule. Or maybe you just need that extra credit to graduate. If this sounds like you, perhaps you might be interested in Advanced Art.

### *What is Advanced Art?*

Advanced Art is essentially the “grown up” version of Studio Art. You take skills learned in Studio Art and apply them to more complex projects in Advanced Art. With Advanced Art, however, the projects have a stricter deadline and allow for independent projects. Independent projects are just “time filler” projects for when waiting for the next project to be assigned. They aren’t always busy work though. They can be clay creations, paintings, sketches, origami, or anything your heart desires. It’s a way to allow for decompression from a project you might have struggled with or a way to have something long term or short term to work on.

So, what were students working on in May and June? As of May, student artists had just about finished up with their “Art on the Trail” projects. These projects required a square board to be decorated any way the artist saw fit. Ms. Collins advised those who painted to use the Golden paint brand and seal it up with a finishing coat. After they finished their projects for the trail, the class moved on to a sharpie paper sculpture project. It was considered an abstract piece, consisting of different drawn patterns on organic shaped pieces of paper. The pieces were then arranged and hot glued together to finish the piece. Finally, some students worked on a mural in the echo hallway. This was a very big project and will probably take a couple of months or longer to complete, but some of the students have been selected to paint and work on it this year. **Jackson Ross** (‘25) said, “I enjoyed Advanced Art this year because it gave me the ability to work on projects that I wouldn’t have tried elsewhere. It also allowed me to work on bigger ideas such as the mural we started in the echo hallway.”

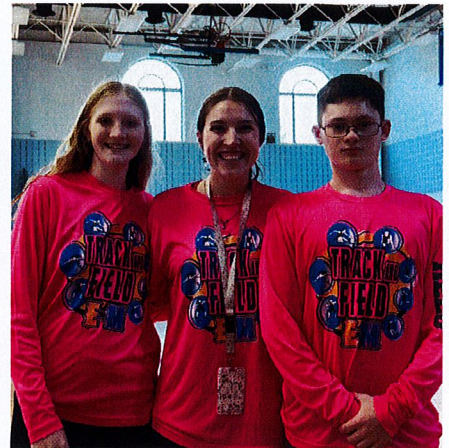
—Tatiana McAdams (‘24)



## SENIOR SWITCH DAY

On Wednesday, May 15th, the Seniors got to become the teachers for the day. They switch with their favorite teachers. **Kaylee Kolka** switched with Mrs. Bolton, **Haylee Cole** switched with Mrs. Collins, **Sam Coyle** and **Lilly Johnston** switched with Mrs. Denning, **Everett Pondolfino** switched with Mrs. Fredette, **Maddie Coleman** switched with Mrs. Grant, **Keegan Fraser** and **Ethan Herring** switched with Mr. Iannelli, **Jessica Walling** and **Noah Moore** switched with Mrs. Kane, **Jacob Morlock** and **Tiger Ross** switched with Mr. Roser, **Chase Burlison** and **Casey Tuttle** switched with Mr. Szokoli, **Yana King** switched with Mrs. Thompson, **Rachel Hill** was Ms. Turner, and **Tatiana McAdams** switched with Mrs. Waffle. The Seniors took over the teachers' lessons and helped their younger peers learn new material or perfect the material they were already used to. Jessica Walling said, "It was exciting and interesting to see the class load Mrs. Kane has for most days. Overall, I really enjoyed my experience for the day." Maddie Coleman said she had a new appreciation for teachers. She did not know how they handle all the things they need to do throughout a day. Overall, the Seniors had a great time switching with their favorite teachers.

—Rachel Hill, Senior





## PROM

This year the prom was held at The Grove. Everyone had a wonderful time. King and Queen were **Asa Dugan** and **Jessica Walling**. Prince and princess were **Everett Pondolfino** and **Maiya King**. The prom court was **Yana King** and **Dom Cruz**. Yana King said, "I loved how everyone just danced and didn't worry about what others were thinking of them; that's really how you have fun!" **Rachel Hill** added, "I absolutely loved the decorations, the committee put in thought to the theme and it really showed. I loved having a 'final' event with my classmates before our senior trip and graduation." Maiya King said she was "honored to be called Prom Princess because now I can say 'I'm a pretty pretty princess.'" **Haylee Cole** also enjoyed the evening. She said, "I enjoyed the people who showed up to prom the most, it was a fun group to be around."



## ★ THREE CHEERS FOR ★

- ★ The Class of 2024—Congrats on your graduation!
- ★ Mrs. Matson for all her hard work towards graduation and awards nights
- ★ Mrs. Parker, Mr. Harmer, Ms. Turner, the administration, the senior band and chorus, custodians for all their hard work towards a successful and special graduation night.
- ★ Mrs. Valez—Congratulations on your retirement! Enjoy!
- ★ **Ricky Pegg** for being chosen to recite "The Gettysburg Address" at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hillington Cemetery in May.
- ★ Spring coaches for great seasons
- ★ Boys Varsity Baseball and Varsity Track for earning Tri-Valley League Banners.
- ★ Construction Manager Joe Polimeni for working hard to make sure our building project finishes smoothly. ☺
- ★ Congratulations to **Asa Dugan** for being chosen to play "Taps" and to **Matthew Schiller** for playing the echo during the Memorial Day Ceremony in May.

**HIP, HIP,  
HOORAY!**